

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink jet printing apparatus to form an image by using a print head capable of ejecting ink from its
5 ejection openings, the printing apparatus comprising:

wiping means for wiping an ejection opening formed face of the print head in which the ejection openings are formed;

10 preliminary ejection means for ejecting ink not contributing to an image forming from the ejection openings of the print head; and

15 modifying means for changing, according to event history information of the print head, the number of ink droplets to be ejected by the preliminary ejection means following a wiping operation of the wiping means.

2. An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the event history information of the print head is a cumulative count of wiping operations
20 of the wiping means.

3. An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the modifying means increases the number of ink droplets to be ejected by the
25 preliminary ejection means as the cumulative count of wiping operations increases.

4. An ink jet printing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the event history information of the
print head is a cumulative printed dot number
representing a cumulative number of ink droplets
5 ejected from the print head.

5. An ink jet printing apparatus according to
claim 4, wherein the modifying means increases the
number of ink droplets to be ejected by the
10 preliminary ejection means as the cumulative printed
dot number increases.

6. An ink jet printing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the event history information of the
15 print head is a cumulative time in which the print
head is mounted in the ink jet printing apparatus.

7. An ink jet printing apparatus according to
claim 6, wherein the modifying means increases the
20 number of ink droplets to be ejected by the
preliminary ejection means as the cumulative print
head mounting time increases.

8. An ink jet printing apparatus according to
25 claim 1, wherein the event history information of the
print head is a time which elapses from a wiping
operation of the wiping means to a start of a printing

operation on a printing medium.

9. An ink jet printing apparatus according to
claim 8, wherein the modifying means decreases the
5 number of ink droplets to be ejected by the
preliminary ejection means as the elapsed time
increases.

10. An ink jet printing apparatus according to
10 claim 1, further comprising:

memory means for storing the event history
information of the print head;

wherein the modifying means changes, according to
the event history information stored in the memory
15 means, the number of ink droplets to be ejected by the
preliminary ejection means following the wiping
operation of the wiping means.

11. An ink jet printing apparatus according to
20 claim 1, wherein the event history information is
information related to a degradation of repellency of
the ejection opening formed face of the print head.

12. A print head recovery device to perform a
25 recovery operation to maintain an ink ejection
performance of a print head in good condition, the
print head being capable of ejecting ink from its

ejection openings, the print head recovery device comprising:

wiping means for wiping an ejection opening formed face of the print head in which the ejection openings 5 are formed;

preliminary ejection means for ejecting ink not contributing to an image forming from the ejection openings of the print head; and

modifying means for changing, according to event 10 history information of the print head, the number of ink droplets to be ejected by the preliminary ejection means following a wiping operation of the wiping means.

13. A print head recovery method for performing a 15 recovery operation to maintain an ink ejection performance of a print head in good condition, the print head being capable of ejecting ink from its ejection openings, the print head recovery method comprising the steps of:

20 using wiping means for wiping an ejection opening formed face of the print head in which the ejection openings are formed and preliminary ejection means for ejecting ink not contributing to an image forming from the ejection openings of the print head; and

25 changing, according to event history information of the print head, the number of ink droplets to be ejected by the preliminary ejection means following a

wiping operation of the wiping means.